**Microbes are special too**

**Activity 1:**

**Background information**

Find information that supports the following statements:

1. Microbes significantly impact our global climate.
2. Marine microbes are very small and have been around for a long time.
3. Life on Earth could not exist without microbes.
4. Most marine microbes are beneficial.
5. Microbes are everywhere. They are extremely abundant and diverse.
6. There are new discoveries every day in the field of microbial oceanography.

**Activity 2:**

**What microbe are you?**

Go to the following page and complete the quiz: <http://cmore.soest.hawaii.edu/education/kidskorner/ur_q1.htm>

1. When finished take a screen shot, or copy and paste the information about the microbe most like you.
2. View the dichotomous key provided by your teacher. Answer the following:
   1. How are the steps in the dichotomous key organized?
   2. What is the purpose of a dichotomous key?
   3. What characteristics were used in the steps of the dichotomous key?
   4. Which bacteria are you most closely related to?
   5. Which bacteria are you most different from?

**Activity 3:**

**Design a microbe**

1. What characteristics must an ocean microbe have in order to survive?
2. What is density?
3. Why would density be an important characteristic for ocean microbes?
4. How are ocean microbes beneficial to the environment and life on Earth?
5. Use common materials to design your microbe. What specific characteristics must it have and what materials did you choose to demonstrate those characteristics?
6. Describe what your environment looks like and the activities you would be doing as your microbe.